



Georgia Emergency Operations Plan

Emergency Support Function # 8 Annex **Public Health & Medical Services**



2015

ESF Coordinator and Support Agencies

ESF Coordinator

Georgia Department of Public Health

Primary Agency

Georgia Department of Public Health

Support Agencies

American Red Cross

*Board of Regents of the University System
of Georgia*

*Georgia Association of Emergency Medical
Services*

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Georgia Coroners Association

*Georgia Department of Administrative
Services*

Georgia Department of Agriculture

*Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and
Developmental Disabilities*

Georgia Department of Community Health

Georgia Department of Defense

Georgia Department of Education

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Georgia Department of Public Safety

Georgia Department of Transportation

Georgia Department of Veteran Services

*Georgia Emergency Management Agency/
Homeland Security*

Georgia Funeral Directors Association

*Georgia Funeral Services and Practitioners
Association Inc.*

Georgia Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs

Georgia Health Care Association

Georgia Hospital Association

Georgia Mutual Aid Group

*Georgia Office of the Commissioner of
Insurance and Fire Safety*

Georgia Office of Planning and Budget

Georgia Pharmacy Association

Independent Funeral Directors of Georgia

State ADA Coordinator's Office

Technical College System of Georgia

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

ESF#8 Public Health and Medical Services, is charged with coordinating the State's health and medical processes during preparedness, planning, activation and deactivation, according to this plan. The constant, pro-active activities of all agencies and organizations listed within this ESF provide a comprehensive system to carry out the most important function of government, protect and save lives. ESF#8 shall carry out this function by providing support to local and regional systems addressing the public health and medical needs of residents, incident victims and response workers in disasters, potential disasters or events of Public Health significance, such as disease outbreaks; including coordinating the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) response to medical needs associated with mental health, behavioral health, substance dependency and the mental well-being of both survivors of disasters and the personnel involved in disaster response.

In addition, the processes outlined in this annex and supporting appendices, standard operating guides and procedures address the identification, registration, evacuation and sheltering of individuals with disabilities and access and functional needs.

Veterinary medical support processes and procedures are described in this ESF and it is with the understanding that they will be closely coordinated with ESF#11 Agriculture and Natural Resources.

1.2 Scope

Agencies and organizations listed in this ESF are expected to support local jurisdictions in the following functional response areas related to public health and medical services:

- Assessment of local public health needs before, during and after a major event or disaster;
- Augmentation of public health and medical personnel;
- Public health, medical, veterinary equipment and supplies;
- Coordination of medical patient evacuation to include special medical needs;
- Coordination of patient care to include those in special medical needs shelters;
- Agriculture related public health and medical services: assistance with coordinating resources;
- Subject matter expertise in infectious disease planning and response;
- Food safety and security;
- Detection and prevention of communicable diseases;
- Inspection and control of sanitation measures;
- Shelter inspection;
- Disease vector and epidemic control;
- Public Health Lab and Laboratory Response Network support and coordination;

- Behavioral health and crisis counseling coordination;
- Potable water, wastewater monitoring coordination and assistance;
- Solid waste disposal monitoring coordination and assistance;
- Mass fatality planning, response and coordination management;
- Victim identification coordination and assistance;
- Victim remains decontamination and displacement: guidance and resource coordination;
- Public health and medical information management;
- Coordination of the safety, security, transportation and distribution of drugs, biologics and medical devices to include the SNS program in state;
- All-hazard public health and medical consultation, technical assistance and support.

2.0 Concept of Operations

General

All agencies listed within ESF#8 are expected to participate in planning and coordination meetings scheduled through the coordinating agency to ensure seamless, effective and efficient preparedness, response, and recovery activities within ESF#8.

ESF#8 will be represented in the State Operations Center (SOC) with a sufficient number of knowledgeable personnel, who have completed SOC training and have been empowered to make high level decisions on behalf of their agency. Each primary and support agency identified in this ESF is not expected to be physically represented within the SOC. However ESF#8 representatives are expected to have personnel identified to come in should conditions warrant and be available through electronic or telephonic means when necessary. ESF#8 representatives in the SOC will receive and consolidate status reports on health and medical service activities within the state for inclusion in operational period situation reports.

3.0 Assignment of Responsibilities

The assignment of responsibilities section establishes the organizations and agencies that will be relied upon to respond to a disaster or emergency situation. This section also includes tasks that these organizations and agencies are expected to perform.

3.1 ESF Coordinator

The Georgia Department of Public Health serves as the coordinator for ESF#8 and in partnership with supporting agencies conducts ESF#8 planning, preparedness, response and recovery activities.

3.2 Primary and Support Agencies

American Red Cross

- First Aid
- Mental Health resource management assistance.
- Volunteers: coordinator and management ServGA and Medical Reserve Corps resources.
- Shelter operations, human needs and feeding support.

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

- Investigations
- Laboratory Facilities
- Coordination with medical examiners/coroners in mass fatality events.
- Body Recovery and Identification.

Board of Regents, University System of Georgia

- Facilities
- Personnel

State ADA Coordinator's Office (GFSIC)

- Identification of Functional Needs.
- Aid in compliance with ADA regulations.
- Identification of assistive technology/communication resources.

Georgia Coroners Association

- Local coroners are the mass fatality lead in those counties with no medical examiner.
- Support county coroners
- Subject Matter Expertise
- Coordination
- Training and Education

Georgia Department of Administrative Services

- Procurement
- Vehicles

Georgia Department of Agriculture

- Animal Disease and Injury
- Laboratory Support
- Technical Assistance-Food
- Pet shelters

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

- Mental Health, to include disaster victims and personnel involved in emergency response
- Addictive Diseases
- Crisis Counseling

Georgia Department of Community Health

- Medicare and Medicaid Services
- Healthcare facility regulation

Georgia Department of Defense

- Aircraft
- Equipment
- Helicopters
- Personnel
- Site Security
- Supplies

Georgia Department of Education

- Personnel
- Facilities
- Data and Information

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

- Drinking Water Quality Control
- Wastewater Treatment
- Solid Waste Handling

Georgia Department of Public Safety

- Aircraft
- Communications Equipment
- Escort/Traffic Control
- Site Security

Georgia Department of Transportation

- Aircraft
- Escort/Traffic Control
- Technical Assistance-Construction
- Vehicles

Georgia Emergency Management Agency/Homeland Security

- Provides coordination and preparedness, response and recovery guidance related to public health and medical needs; provides leadership and

coordination to volunteer organizations delivering human services and operating within the state response structure.

Georgia Funeral Directors Association

- Technical Assistance
- Facilities

Georgia Funeral Service and Practitioners Association Inc.

- Technical Assistance
- Facilities

Georgia Health Care Association

- Technical Assistance
- Facilities

Georgia Hospital Association

- Medical Facilities
- Personnel

Georgia Association of Emergency Medical Services

- Subject Matter Expertise
- Coordination Among Industry

Governor's Office of Consumer Affairs

- Technical Assistance
- Consumer Protection Services

Georgia Office of the Commissioner of Insurance and Fire Safety

- Technical Assistance

Georgia Office of Planning and Budget

- Personnel
- Cost Recovery

Independent Funeral Directors of Georgia

- Technical Assistance
- Facilities

Technical College System of Georgia

- Equipment
- Personnel

3.3 Direction, Control, and Coordination

This section describes the framework for all direction, control, and coordination within the State of Georgia and other States.

3.3 A: ESF Coordination within State Operation Center

ESF#8 will report all activities to the ESF#5 Situation Unit for inclusion in the development of incident action plans and situational reports. All public information reports regarding ESF#8 activities will be coordinated with ESF#15 – External Affairs.

When ESF#8's activated, the Georgia Department of Public Health, with assistance from supporting departments and agencies, assesses and responds to requests for assistance with the management and or maintenance of Georgia's emergency health and medical processes and planning or technical assistance from impacted local, state or federal agencies or other ESFs.

In addition to the SOC, ESF#8 may provide personnel to field operations established in Georgia, including but not limited to: Joint Field Offices (JFO), Joint Information Centers (JIC), Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) and any other incident facility established to meet operational demands for each particular incident requiring the activation of the GEOP.

3.3 B: Coordination of EMAC Request

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is a national mutual aid agreement between the 50 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia. It is based on 13 Articles which have been enacted into state law by each state. In Georgia, EMAC is addressed in the O.C.G.A., Title 38, Chapter 3, Article 5.

States may only request assistance via EMAC when their governor has declared a state of emergency. EMAC requires that the state requesting assistance reimburse the state that provides the assistance. The Director of GEMA/HS is the EMAC Authorized Representative (AR) for the State of Georgia. The AR is tasked with the authority to commit and accept resources through EMAC partnerships. The AR may delegate this authority to the Operations Director, Deputy Operations Director and Finance Director of GEMA/HS. The GEMA/HS Logistics Program Manager is the designated contact (DC) for EMAC. In the absence of the Logistics Program Manager, the agency has identified alternate designated contacts. The DC is commonly referred to as the EMAC Coordinator. The DC coordinates EMAC operations and prepares the official EMAC Request for Assistance (commonly referred to as the REQ-A). When completed, the REQ-A becomes a contract between the requesting and assisting states for the provision of assistance in accordance with EMAC. When the SOC is activated, the Logistics Section Mutual Aid Unit coordinates and manages EMAC missions. This unit will be initially staffed with GEMA/HS personnel, but will likely be

augmented by trained EMAC personnel from other states as soon as possible. This unit is also referred to as an EMAC “A” Team.

ESF#8 will coordinate all EMAC requests with the GEMA/HS EMAC DC or the SOC Logistics Section Mutual Aid Unit, when the SOC is activated. No resource (personnel or equipment) may deploy to another state via EMAC until the REQ-A has been approved and signed by the ARs of the requesting and assisting states, and they have been provided a copy of the REQ-A, briefed and prepared for the mission. To facilitate obtaining any assistance Georgia may need via EMAC, state ESFs should identify their shortfalls in capability and where resources may be obtained to provide this capability. This may be accomplished via informal coordination with sister agencies in other states to determine if the needed resource is available for potential deployment to Georgia, its location and the point of contact for the resource. Such information is critical in expediting a request for assistance via EMAC. For more information on EMAC, contact the GEMA/HS EMAC Designated Contact at 404-635-7200.

3.3 C: ESF Activation, Exercise & Improvement Planning

GEMA/HS systematically coordinates and conducts event debriefings and compiles after action reports for any incident that calls for the activation of all or any portion of the GEOP. ESF#8 shall participate in this process when applicable. After Action Reports will document areas for improvement, resource shortfalls and corrective action planning requirements which will be incorporated into the GEOP, its annexes or ESF SOGs when applicable.

GEMA/HS conducts all exercises within the structure provided by the Homeland Security Exercise Evaluation Program (HSEEP). ESF#8 will participate in all exercise activities when applicable and will follow the HSEEP process to include active participation in planning and evaluation meetings, workshops and conferences.

3.3 D: Development of Standard Operating Guides

The GEMA/HS Planning Section has provided standard operating guide development templates and planning assistance to all ESFs listed in the GEOP. All ESFs will strive to develop operationally ready SOGs for inclusion in the GEOP. ESF# 8 will meet as necessary to develop, review and refine SOGs that discuss specific operational processes and procedures.

3.3 E: Development of Resources Capability List

In conjunction with ESF#7 – Resource Support, ESF#8 will develop, review, refine and maintain lists of all resources currently available and under the control of the primary or support agencies listed in this plan. The development of these lists may be completed by several organizations and professional groups, which currently operate within this ESF. These resource lists should be compliant with

the resource typing standards outlined in the National Incident Management System (NIMS).

4.0 ESF Annex Development and Maintenance

This Emergency Support Function Annex will be reviewed every two years and updated as required. In addition the document shall be evaluated for recommended revisions and corrective measures as an integral part of the Agency Exercise or Event After Action Reports / Improvement Plans, as well as internal reviews that will follow the issuance of any Governor Executive Order or passage of legislation impacting the Agency.